

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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AMEMBASSY LONDON
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AMCONSOUL GENOA
AMCONSUL MILAN
AMCONSUL NAPLES
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USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GERMANY
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SUBJECT: LABOR INITIATIVES TO COMBAT TERRORISM

REF: ROME 5055

1. IN MEETINGS ON MARCH 17 AND 20, THE SECRETARIAT OF THE
FEDERATION CGIL-CISL-UIL (CCU) CONCENTRATED ON MEASURES TO
STRENGTHEN THE HAND OF LAW ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITIES IN COM-
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BATTING TERRORIST DEPREDACTIONS. THE INTER-CONFEDERAL
POLEMICS OVER CGIL SUBJUGATION TO THE COMMUNIST PARTY
ABATED SUBSTANTIALLY AS LABOR CONCENTRATED ON THE PUBLIC
SECURITY ISSUE.

2. AMONG THE MEASURES THE CCU IS CONSIDERING IS THE
FEASIBILITY OF BECOMING A "CO-ACCUSER" IN THE TRIAL

WHICH IS BEING CONDUCTED IN TURIN AGAINST A NUMBER OF TOP LEADERS OF THE TERRORIST GROUP, BRIGATE ROSSE, THE ORGANIZATION WHICH KIDNAPPED ITALIAN STATESMAN ALDO MORO. IN ADDITION, THE CCU CALLED FOR GETTING POLICE OUT OF DESK JOBS AND ONTO ACTIVE POLICE DUTY, WITH "CIVILIANS" PERFORMING THE CLERICAL WORK. THE CCU ALSO OFFERED TO ASSIST IN POLICE RECRUITING IN ORDER TO FILL THE 15,000 VACANCIES SAID TO EXIST IN NATIONAL POLICE FORCE RANKS.

3. THE CGIL WAS PARTICULARLY ACTIVE IN FORMULATING CCU POLICY FOR COMBATTING THE THREAT TO PUBLIC SECURITY. IN AN ARTICLE DUE TO APPEAR TOMORROW, CGIL SECGEN LAMA WRITES: "IN THIS MOMENT, WITH A UNIFIED (NATIONAL) POLITICAL DIRECTION HAVING A BASIS WHICH NEVER, IN MORE THAN THIRTY YEARS, HAS BEEN SO BROAD, THE POPULAR MASSES ARE CALLED UPON TO MOBILIZE THEMSELVES AND TO PARTICIPATE ACTIVELY, WITHOUT AWAITING ORDERS FROM ABOVE, TO REPULSE THE ATTACKS ON LIBERTY AND ON DEMOCRACY." WITHIN THE CCU COUNCILS, THE CGIL PUSHED STRONGLY FOR PURGING THE RANKS OF ORGANIZED LABOR OF THOSE SUBVERSIVE ELEMENTS WHICH HAVE INFILTRATED IN RECENT YEARS.

4. WITH RESPECT TO THE GOVERNMENT'S ECONOMIC PROGRAM, THE CCU DRYLY STATED IT WOULD FORM A JUDGMENT AS SOON AS IT COULD INSPECT SUCH A PROGRAM.
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5. COMMENT. THE UNIFIED LABOR APPROACH TO COMBAT TERRORISM IS CERTAINLY JUSTIFIED BY THE GRAVITY OF RECENT EVENTS. IT DOES, HOWEVER, SERVE TO PAPER OVER THE DIVISIONS WITHIN LABOR'S RANKS OCCASIONED RECENTLY BY ACCUSATIONS THAT THE CGIL WAS EXPLOITING "LABOR UNITY" TO REALIZE COMMUNIST PARTY OBJECTIVES.

6. WITH RESPECT TO THE PROPOSAL TO BECOME A "CO-ACCUSER" OF THE BR, THIS IS AN ITALIAN LEGAL MECHANISM IN WHICH A SUIT FOR CIVIL DAMAGES CAN BE JOINED WITH STATE PROSECUTION. THE CCU'S MOTIVATION, CLEARLY, IS TO REPUDIATE UNAMBIGUOUSLY THE PRETENSIONS OF THE BRIGATE ROSSE TO REPRESENT THE WORKING CLASS. THIS LABOR INITIATIVE MUST ALSO BE VIEWED AGAINST THE BACKGROUND OF INTIMIDATION WHICH HAS MADE IT DIFFICULT TO SEAT A JURY IN THE TURIN CASE. IF THE CCU DECIDES TO PUSH AHEAD WITH THIS IDEA, IT WILL HAVE TO CONVINCE THE PIEDMONT JUDICIAL AUTHORITIES THAT IT HAS SUFFERED PALPABLE DAMAGES AT THE HANDS OF THE BRIGATE ROSSE, IN ORDER TO BE ADMITTED AS A "CO-ACCUSER." THE FACT THAT THE TURIN TRIAL HAS ALREADY COMMENCED MAY OFFER ADDITIONAL TECHNICAL OBSTACLES IN THIS MATTER.

GARDNER

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